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European Network of
Transmission System Operators
for Electricity

THE ENERGY IDENTIFICATION CODING SCHEME (EIC) REFERENCE MANUAL

2015-06-18

DOCUMENT FOR APPROVAL
VERSION 5.0

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NOTE CONCERNING WORDING USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

The force of the following words is modified by the requirement level of the document in which they are used.

- SHALL: This word, or the terms “REQUIRED” or “MUST”, means that the definition is an absolute requirement of the specification.
- SHALL NOT: This phrase, or the phrase “MUST NOT”, means that the definition is an absolute prohibition of the specification.
- SHOULD: This word, or the adjective “RECOMMENDED”, means that there may exist valid reasons in particular circumstances to ignore a particular item, but the full implications shall be understood and carefully weighed before choosing a different course.
- SHOULD NOT: This phrase, or the phrase “NOT RECOMMENDED”, means that there may exist valid reasons in particular circumstances when the particular behaviour is acceptable or even useful, but the full implications should be understood and the case carefully weighed before implementing any behaviour described with this label.
- MAY: This word, or the adjective “OPTIONAL”, means that an item is truly optional. One vendor may choose to include the item because a particular marketplace requires it or because the vendor feels that it enhances the product while another vendor may omit the same item. An implementation which does not include a particular option SHALL be prepared to interoperate with another implementation which does include the option, though perhaps with reduced functionality. In the same vein an implementation which does include a particular option SHALL be prepared to interoperate with another implementation which does not include the option (except, of course, for the feature the option provides.).

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Revision History

Version	Release	Date	Paragraphs	Comments
1	0	2001-05-24		Initial publication.
2	0	2002-06-20		Correction to remove the use of the asterisk character (*) in the EIC code since it could be used in a filename.
3	0	2004-09-30	Section 1 Section 3 Annex 4 Annex 5 Annex 6	Update of the introduction section to bring it into line with the current situation to define the new EIC code type “W” for units. Specify more responsibilities for the CIOs and additional responsibilities for the LIOs. Modify the DTD to incorporate the EIC Responsible Party and to provide explanatory text. Explanation of the use of the EIC parent. Explanation of the use of the EIC Responsible Party.
4	0	2005-05-11		General revamping of the document to incorporate the extension of the coding system to the energy market, to permit the EIC code to be used locally as well as nationally and to detail the use of the balance group object type.
5	0	2015-06-18	All	Restructuring of the Reference Manual, to clarify the content along with the introduction of legally clear information.

References

All the documentation about the EIC coding scheme is available on the EIC website (www.eiccodes.eu)

In particular, the following information is provided:

a) The EIC reference manual
b) The EIC implementation guide
c) The EIC list of functions
d) The list of EIC Local Issuing Offices
e) The list of EIC codes in the central registry

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1 Introduction

Electronic data interchange (EDI) in the European energy market requires a common identification scheme to be effective. EIC Participants (traders, producers, qualified consumers, etc.) have the possibility to act in different market areas. System operators have to exchange information amongst themselves as well as with other EIC Participants. In addition there are many other objects that require identification for information interchange to be successful (tie lines, resource objects, etc.). In order to provide such functionality a reliable identification scheme is a necessity.

The non-exhaustive list of objects that need to be identified are:

- System operators, traders, producers, consumers, power exchanges, grid operators, suppliers, agents, service providers, etc.
- Local grids where metering points are situated, market balance areas consisting of a number of local grids, control areas, etc.
- Cross border connections, metering points, settlement or accounting points, etc.
- Any object that generates, or consumes energy.
- The physical lines that connect adjacent market (balance) areas or internal lines within an area.
- The physical or logical places where an identified object or the IT system of an identified object is or could be located.
- Substations for electrical nodes (stations, passive nodes, etc.).

ENTSO-E consequently introduced an identification scheme, which provided an easy migration path for existing national schemes, in a format that makes it suitable for general electronic data interchange. The resulting Energy Identification Coding scheme - EIC - is described in the rest of this reference manual.

EIC codes are necessary for ENTSO-E, ENTSOG and actors of the energy market to fulfil their obligations pursuant to:

- the Transparency Regulation, for the electricity sector[1];
- the Gas Regulation, for the gas sector[2];
- the REMIT Regulation and the REMIT implementing act, for both the electricity and the gas sectors[3].

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1 *Namely Commission Regulation (EU) No 543/2013 of 14 June 2013 on submission and publication of data in electricity markets and amending Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 714/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council (the "Transparency Regulation"). The manual of procedures developed by ENTSO-E under this Regulation prescribes the use of EIC codes to report information under the Transparency Regulation (notably EIC codes type X, Y, W, V and T).*

2 *Namely, Regulation (EC) No 715/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 on conditions for access to the natural gas transmission networks and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1775/2005 (the "Gas Regulation"), as modified by Commission Decision of 24 August 2012. The Automatic Download User Manual developed by ENTSOG pursuant to the Gas Regulation equally prescribes the use of EIC codes to report information under the Gas Regulation (notably EIC codes types X, Y and Z).*

3 *Regulation (EU) No 1277/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of October 2011 on wholesale energy market integrity and transparency (the "REMIT" Regulation) and the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1348/2014 of 17 December 2014 on data reporting implementing Article 8(2) and Article 8(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1227/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council on wholesale energy market integrity and transparency (the "REMIT implementing act") render EIC codes mandatory. EIC codes have to be submitted to report information pursuant to Article 8(2) of the REMIT Regulation (Article 5 and the Annex of the REMIT implementing act):*

- *EIC codes identifying the delivery point or zone/areas for contracts related to the supply of electricity and gas (Annex of the REMIT implementing act, Table 1, row 48 and Table 2, row 41);*

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These obligations follow from the legislative and regulatory acts in force at the date of release of the version 5.0 of the EIC reference manual and are without prejudice to any legislative and/or regulatory acts that may be amended or adopted thereafter. ENTSO-E reserves the right to amend this section of the reference manual in case legislative and regulatory changes are relevant and applicable to EIC codes.

2 Definitions

For the purpose of this reference manual, the following definitions apply:

Local EIC code means an EIC code allocated for activities limited to an area of operation and is not used in another country.

International EIC code means an EIC code allocated for activities on one or several geographical area(s) which may cross borders with another country and/or for any other activities outside the limits of this area as subject to publication or reporting requirements pursuant to EU legislation. The international EIC code shall be registered in the CIO registry.

Party means a physical or legal entity active on the electricity and/or gas markets, which can be, without being exhaustive, a trader, a producer, a consumer or a group of consumers, a system operator, etc., and which can be or is allocated under this reference manual an EIC code type X.

EIC Participant means a physical or legal entity which is allocated one or several EIC code(s) by an authorised LIO. The quality of “EIC Participant” applies as soon as an entity applies to be allocated an EIC code.

All the terms that are used in this EIC reference manual can be found in the ENTSO-E Metadata Repository.

– *EIC codes type X (identifying the sender of the document, the bidding party, the rights holder, the transferee party and the market participant for whom a bid is submitted) and EIC codes type Y (identifying the “in” and “out” area, both for primary allocation and secondary rights) for contracts related to the transportation of electricity (Annex of the REMIT implementing act, Table 3, rows 4, 16, 19, 20, 33 – 36, and 54) ;*

– *EIC code type Z (identifying the network point) for contracts related to gas (Annex of the REMIT implementing act, Table 4, row 24).*

In addition, ENTSO-E and ENTSOG have to report the data under Article 8(5) of the REMIT Regulation through their transparency platforms (Articles 8 and 9 of the REMIT implementing act). As EIC codes are to be used to report information on the transparency platforms, EIC codes are equally to be used to report information under Article 8(5) of the REMIT Regulation and Articles 8 and 9 of the REMIT implementing act.

Finally, EIC codes are listed as an option amongst other codes (e.g. Legal Entity Identifier (LEI), Bank Identifier Code (BIC), etc.) to identify information under Article 8(2) of the REMIT Regulation (Article 5 and the Annex of the REMIT implementing act).

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3 Governance

The administrative organization for EIC management is composed of a four level structure:

- Level 1: EIC Participant

The EIC Participant submits a request for an EIC code for an identifying party or for an object. The role of the EIC Participant consists in providing the LIO with the information necessary for the EIC code creation and all necessary updates.

- Level 2: Local Issuing Office (LIO)

Each country, which directly or indirectly is a part of the European energy network, can have one or more LIO for issuing EIC codes. In addition, an energy association, (such as ENTSO-E, EFET, BDEW, DVGW, etc.) can also become a LIO. The LIO shall manage the EIC codes it allocates and maintains a local registry.

- Level 3: Central Issuing Office (CIO)

The CIO is currently under the direct responsibility of ENTSO-E. It ensures the management of the central registry and the acceptance of LIOs.

- Level 4: ENTSO-E

ENTSO-E defines after consulting the LIOs the governance of the EIC scheme and maintains the EIC Reference manual.

3.1 EIC Participant

3.1.1 Obligations/Responsibility

An EIC Participant is responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the information it submits when applying for an EIC code. Once an EIC code is issued, the EIC Participant shall be responsible for the information provided in the EIC code and shall inform the LIO that issued the EIC Code of any changes in the EIC information.

By applying for and being allocated an EIC code, an EIC Participant accepts:

- explicitly this reference manual and to comply with its provisions;
- that this reference manual is governed by, and shall be construed in accordance with Belgian law for relations with the CIO or national law of the LIO in the case of relations with the LIO;
- that any disputes or disagreements arising from or in connection with this reference manual shall be settled amicably. For the disputes which cannot be settled amicably within a reasonable period of time, the competent courts under the applicable law shall have exclusive jurisdiction to settle any disputes arising out or in connection with this reference manual.

When an EIC Participant is in material breach of this reference manual, the LIO and/or the CIO shall have the right to:

- send a written notice to the EIC Participant requesting it to remedy its breach within 30 calendar days;
- suspend the allocated EIC code in the absence of remedy within the timing set in the written notice;
- revoke the allocated EIC code in the absence of remedy within 30 calendar days following the suspension of the authorisation.

A revoked EIC code shall be reinstated as soon as the EIC Participant demonstrates to the LIO and/or the CIO it has remedied the breach in question.

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A CIO or LIO may suspend or revoke an EIC code upon a reasoned request of a public competent authority claiming a breach of the applicable law. In no event shall the CIO or LIO be responsible for such suspension or revocation.

After receiving a new EIC code or an amended one, the EIC Participant shall verify the accuracy of its EIC code content with the data it submitted when applying for the EIC code and/or if relevant when requesting a change to its EIC code information. The EIC Participant shall also verify the accurate publication of its EIC code on the CIO or LIO registries. The EIC Participant shall notify in the shortest timing following the publication of the EIC code any possible errors it identifies to the concerned LIO. In the absence of notification of an error within 10 business days after the publication of the EIC code, the EIC code is understood as valid and cannot engage the responsibility of the LIO or CIO.

The person applying for an EIC code on behalf on a Party which wishes to become an EIC Participant shall submit to the LIO a declaration attesting it acts on behalf of the EIC Participant.

An EIC Participant, when requesting a change to the information content of an EIC code, shall submit to the LIO a declaration attesting it was issued the EIC code in question and that the person signing the declaration acts on behalf of this EIC Participant.

As described in 3.5.1, EIC participants agree to be bound by any future amendments of this reference manual, by continuing using the EUC code they were allocated."

3.1.2 Process of "creating" or "updating" an EIC code

An EIC Participant may request an EIC code from a LIO. It is also possible to request that the information associated with the EIC code be modified or that an EIC code be deactivated. If the request is not acceptable for any reason (EIC code already exists, incorrect display name, etc.) the EIC Participant is informed by the LIO and may, if necessary, make a new request.

If an EIC participant withdraws from operating on the energy market then this information shall be provided to the LIO to enable the deactivation of the EIC code.

The EIC Participant shall provide to the LIO an e-mail address (preferably generic) to enable EIC code information queries from the LIO and/or the CIO to be handled.

An EIC Participant shall apply for an EIC code to a LIO located in the country where it is registered, e.g. where it has its VAT number. If there is no LIO in the country where the EIC Participant is registered or the LIO(s) in the country where the EIC Participant is registered do not issue EIC codes for the sector (electricity or gas) and types the EIC Participant applies for, it may apply for an EIC code to another LIO.

3.2 Local Issuing Office

3.2.1 Obligations/Responsibility

A LIO explicitly accepts:

- this reference manual and to comply with its provisions;
- that this reference manual is governed by, and shall be construed in accordance with, Belgian law for relations with the CIO or national law of the LIO in the case of relations with EIC Participants;
- that any disputes or disagreements arising from or in connection with this reference manual shall be settled amicably. For the disputes which cannot be settled amicably within a reasonable period of time, the competent courts under the applicable law shall have exclusive jurisdiction to settle any disputes arising out or in connection with this reference manual.

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A LIO is responsible for the allocation and maintenance of the EIC codes it issues and a LIO shall publish at least the list of all the active EIC codes that it has issued in its local registry with at least the information proposed in the EIC implementation guide

A LIO shall correct errors identified by the EIC Participant in existing EIC codes that the LIO has issued.

The LIO is not responsible for the accuracy, completeness and validity of the information that is provided by an EIC Participant.

The LIO is not responsible for loss, damage, costs and expenses which may incur as a direct consequence of acts or omissions from an EIC Participant, the CIO or any third party. The LIO is responsible only for the EIC codes it allocates.

The LIO shall perform its obligations without prejudice to the application of national legislation relating to the protection of personal data or to the protection of commercially sensitive information. In this respect, the LIO shall not be held liable for any failure to perform its obligations, when such failure is due to the necessary compliance of the LIO with such legislation.

A LIO shall provide at least the following minimum services:

- to provide a local registry on a web-page accessible by third parties. The LIO publishes the energy sector (gas or electricity or both) and the EIC code types that it covers;
- to publish the list of all EIC codes allocated by the LIO in a processable form according to the EIC implementation guide that can be downloaded by third party;
- to ensure that an EIC code or a display name has not already been allocated for the requesting party either locally or in the central registry. If an EIC code has already been allocated in the central registry to identify the entity or object, the LIO shall inform the EIC Participant applying for an EIC code;
- to provide a party with all the details relevant to the EIC codes they are responsible for and to notify EIC Participants of their obligation to keep the content of the EIC codes current.

When a LIO is in material breach of this reference manual, the CIO shall have the right to take actions according to section 3.3.2.

LIOs will issue, maintain and publish the needed EIC codes free of charge for EIC Participants, unless the competent national regulatory authority agrees that the LIO asks a fee to EIC Participant in its area of operation. Any LIO asking a fee shall publish on its website the applicable fee and inform the other LIOs.

The LIO shall treat as confidential any data qualified as confidential it receives from an EIC Participant, another LIO or the CIO. The LIO shall use utmost care and discretion not to disclose, publish or disseminate the confidential data. This obligation is without prejudice to the communication of data to the CIO and other LIOs in accordance with this reference manual and, if necessary or requested, to competent authorities. The LIO shall inform EIC Participants of this possible communication. The LIO shall process and publish the data it receives in line with the national law on protection of personal data.

3.2.2 Process to become a LIO

An applicant shall be authorised by the CIO in order to become a LIO. It shall fill in the application form available on the EIC website and submit it to the CIO.

The application form shall be signed by an authorised representative of the submitting organisation and shall contain at least:

- Name and address of the legal entity submitting the request;

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- Documentation of the motivations for the creation of the LIO;
- The area of operation;
- The sector it will cover (gas, electricity). If it does not cover both sectors then it should indicate which LIO covers the absent sector, if such information is available.
- The EIC code types (see section 4.2) it will allocate. If it does not allocate all EIC code types then it should indicate thorough justification and indicate which LIO(s) allocates the missing code types for its area of operation.

In case where the requirements of the reference manual are met, the CIO shall assign to the applicant a unique 2-character code that identifies it as a LIO. In case of non-compliance, the CIO shall inform the applicant of the motivations for the rejection.

The ENTSO-E Secretary General or the designated responsible person on the Secretary General's behalf will supply the successful LIO by post, email or fax with a certificate acknowledging the LIO status.

The CIO shall publish the new LIO information in the EIC website.

3.2.3 Process to issue an EIC code

On reception of a request for the creation of an EIC code, the LIO will initially validate the credentials of the requesting EIC Participant.

It shall ensure that the allocated EIC codes are stable over time.

Regarding requests referring to a party, a LIO can always request:

- an excerpt of the national trading register (e.g. a VAT number) and/or;
- the ACER identification code if one exists;
- the description of the EIC code shall be provided in a description attribute (free text) and also using the list of functions published in the EIC web site;
- the company name shall correspond to its registered name;
- any other information deemed necessary by the LIO.

A LIO shall only issue an EIC code or update information of an EIC code that begins with its LIO identification number.

The EIC Participant shall be informed of any problems identified. In a second phase the LIO shall verify in the local and central registry to ensure that an EIC code has not been already allocated to this entity or object. If an EIC code already exists for this entity or object, there are two possibilities:

- An EIC code exists in the local registry; the EIC Participant could be making a request for the EIC code to become an international EIC code. If this is the case then the process continues. However, if this is not the case then the EIC Participant is informed of the existing EIC code;
- An EIC code exists in the central registry in which case the EIC Participant is informed of the EIC code's existence that identifies already the entity or object.

Display names in the central registry are required to be unique by EIC type. This uniqueness check by EIC type also applies to locally assigned EIC codes. In order to ensure that a locally assigned EIC code has a display name that is unique it is recommended that it begins with the two character international country code of the country in question, or the LIO number, in case there are more than one LIO in the same country. For example a local EIC code assigned in Switzerland shall have display name such as "CH-NAME". A conflict may occur in the case of several LIOs in the same country in which case the display name shall use the LIO number instead.

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A LIO shall only issue an EIC code to an EIC Participant which is not registered (e.g. VAT number) in the country where the LIO operates if:

- the concerned EIC Participant demonstrates there is no LIO in the country where it is registered or;
- the LIO(s) in the country where the EIC Participant is registered do not issue EIC codes for the sector (electricity or gas) and type the EIC Participant applies for.

3.2.4 Process to communicate to the CIO registry

LIOs may assign local EIC codes. In this case the EIC code assigned shall not be submitted to the CIO. An EIC code that has been created for use on the local market may at some later date be upgraded for use on the international market. The LIO has, in such a case, to transmit the EIC code information to the CIO.

The LIO shall ensure that a locally assigned EIC code respects all the rules laid down in this document and in particular it shall ensure that the display name per each type of EIC code and whatever its status (active/inactive) that is assigned is unique within the central registry.

A LIO shall provide at least the following minimum services:

- to transmit to the CIO all international EIC codes.
- to send to the CIO any updated information that is in the central registry.
- to manage the EIC codes under its responsibility by:
  a) enabling inquiries about an EIC code;
  b) suspending when necessary an EIC code;
  c) modifying when necessary information related to an EIC code.

When there are several LIOs for a same geographical area, the LIOs shall cooperate with each other to ensure that no different EIC codes are allocated to a same legal entity.

When a locally assigned EIC code becomes an international EIC code, the LIO shall ensure that the display name is still unique within the central registry for the category of the EIC code in question. If not it shall make any required changes that are necessary.

For the creation of an international EIC code, the LIO shall supply the central registry with all allocated international EIC codes and the standard information. Each LIO shall send all internationally assigned EIC codes to the CIO containing the related information and their allocated EIC codes. This information shall be sent to the CIO by the LIO using either the standard XML electronic document which will be validated through the appropriate XML schema. More information on the XML structure of the EIC scheme and the EIC attributes can be found in the EIC implementation guide document, which is available in the EIC website (www.eiccodes.eu).

3.2.5 Process to publish its EIC codes

Each LIO shall have a web-page where all EIC codes they allocate shall be published. The detail provided in the publication shall respect the national laws on protection of personal data.

3.2.6 Process to deactivate or reactivate an EIC code

Deactivation/reactivation of a local EIC code is carried out by the LIO who is responsible for it.

Before an international EIC code may be deactivated, a LIO shall send a deactivation request to the CIO. The EIC code in question shall be kept active for a period of two months prior to its deactivation. If during that time a request is made for it not to be deactivated the EIC code shall remain active. The requesting LIO shall be informed of its removal. If, after the two month period no requests have been received the EIC code will be deactivated by the CIO.

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The reactivation of an already deactivated EIC code is possible in the case where an EIC code identifying an object has been deactivated and a request is made to reactivate it for use to identify the same object.

A LIO may reactivate a deactivated EIC code after it has ensured that it is identifying the same object. For an international EIC code, the request for reactivation is sent to the CIO who shall reactivate the EIC code immediately.

3.2.7 Process to update the additional attributes of an EIC code

A LIO is allowed to update the attributes of an existing EIC code following an update request by the owner of the EIC code. All attributes can undergo change, except for the case of the VAT number for Parties. In the latter case, an update is allowed only if the update does not affect the essence of the company. To this end, the following changes to the VAT number can be considered as non-essential:

- the restructuring of a legal entity, leading to the transfer of the EIC codes to another legal entity succeeding to its activities for the EIC codes (such as for instance the merger of several entities or the split of one entity into several entities);
- the modification of the VAT number in a country following the accession to the European Union (see e.g. the case of Croatia);
- the modification of the form of the legal entity.

The LIO can request all necessary documentation that demonstrates that the change of VAT does not change the essence of the company. Regarding the update of other EIC attributes, the LIO shall simply verify that the display name remains unique in each EIC code type.

3.3 Central Issuing Office

3.3.1 Obligations/Responsibility

The CIO is responsible for the collection, integration and publication of all the international EIC codes received from the LIOs.

The CIO shall not be liable for indirect or consequential damages arising under or in connection of this reference manual.

The CIO is not responsible for the accuracy, completeness and validity of the information that is provided by a LIO. The CIO is not responsible for loss, damage, costs and expenses which may incur as a direct consequence of acts or omissions from an EIC Participant, a LIO or a third party. The CIO is responsible only for the management of the EIC codes published on its central registry. It is not responsible for EIC codes published only on local registries or allocated by an entity it did not recognise as LIO or by an entity whose authorisation to act as LIO was suspended or revoked.

The CIO shall treat as confidential any data qualified as confidential it receives from an EIC Participant or a LIO. The CIO shall use utmost care and discretion not to disclose, publish or disseminate the confidential data. This obligation is without prejudice to the consolidation by the CIO of all the data received from the LIOs and the regular communication of this consolidated data to all LIOs as well as to the communication of data if necessary to competent authorities. The CIO shall process and publish the data it receives from the LIO in line with the national law on protection of personal data.

3.3.2 Acceptance/Revoke of a LIO

When a LIO is in material breach of this reference manual, the CIO shall have the right to:

- send a written notice to the LIO requesting it to remedy its breach within 45 calendar days;

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- suspend the authorisation to act as a LIO in the absence of remedy within the timing set in the written notice;
- revoke the authorisation to act as a LIO in the absence of remedy within 45 calendar days following the suspension of the authorisation.

A revoked LIO shall be reauthorised as a LIO once it demonstrates to the CIO that it remedied the breach it was notified.

EIC codes allocated by a suspended and/or revoked LIO remain valid until the reauthorisation of the concerned LIO. While the LIO is suspended and/or revoked, the CIO shall find a solution for the management of the active EIC codes.

3.3.3 Process to update CIO registry

The CIO shall perform the following validation checks:

- The EIC code is unique within the central registry;
- The display name is unique per EIC code type within the central registry;
- The EIC code and display name respect the naming rules and only use the permitted characters;
- The contents of the function attributes shall exist in the permitted function list;
- If two different EIC Participants have the same VAT number and this is permitted by the local tax regulations, one of the two EIC codes should be designated as EIC Parent, otherwise one of the two EIC codes will not be accepted.
- A request to deactivate an EIC Participant code which is EIC parent or EIC responsible shall not be permitted unless all EIC children or responsible for EIC codes are already updated;
- The last request date shall be modified with each addition, modification deactivation or reactivation of an EIC code;
- The EIC code with an erroneous EIC attribute shall not be published, until the LIO provides a compliant EIC attribute;
- All mandatory attributes shall be present.

3.3.4 Verification and integration of an international EIC code

On reception of an LIO request submission, the CIO verifies that all the required information is present and that the controls defined in section 3.3.3 are respected. When the controls are not respected, the request is rejected and the LIO is informed of the rejection.

This requires immediate action by the LIO. Once the verifications successfully carried out the central registry is updated accordingly. The CIO also ensures that the last requested date is superior to the requested date in the central registry. If not the date is changed to the current date and the LIO is informed of the change.

3.3.5 Process to publish EIC codes

The CIO shall publish on its central registry the list of authorised, suspended and/or revoked LIOs.

The CIO shall add to its registry the valid EIC codes as received from the LIOs and publish in a processable form downloadable by third party the related attributes, taking into consideration the most restrictive national legislation on protection of personal data.

The CIO shall publish the list of EIC codes it receives from the LIOs in a processable form according to the EIC implementation guide downloadable by third party.

3.3.6 Organisation of regular meetings

The CIO shall ensure a proper coordination of LIOs through regular CIO/LIOs meetings.

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3.4 Common provisions for CIO, LIO and EIC Participants

An actor (being LIO, CIO or EIC Participant) shall indemnify any other actor only against damage, costs and expenses which it may incur as a direct consequence of a breach of this reference manual resulting from a gross negligence and/or wilful misconduct. The actor's liability shall be limited to a maximum amount of 1.000 EUR per damaging event and shall not be liable for indirect or consequential damages arising under or in connection of this reference manual.

3.5 ENTSO-E

3.5.1 Obligations/ Responsibility

Any coding scheme needs a body to maintain it and to ensure that it satisfies market requirements.

ENTSO-E shall manage the maintenance of the EIC scheme. The LIOs or the CIO may provide a maintenance request for a change to or evolution of the EIC scheme. Any proposed changes to this reference manual shall have the consensus of all participating LIOs and the CIO.

Should this reference manual be amended, the amended reference manual will be published on the EIC website (www.eiccodes.eu). The CIO and LIO will inform on their respective website of the publication of the amended reference manual on the EIC website. By continuing using the EIC codes they were allocated, EIC Participants agree to be bound by the reference manual as amended.

4 EIC codes: requirements and types

4.1 General requirements

A successful identification scheme requires that the allocated codes are stable over time.

Only EIC codes issued by LIOs that respect the rules of this reference manual are valid EIC codes.

Only one EIC code shall be allocated per entity or object[4].

EIC codes shall identify abstract or physical objects by what they are used for and not by their physical characteristics. For instance, a replacement of a transformer does not require a change of the EIC code that is used to identify it.

The EIC code is to be used as a complete string without trying to extract information from its structure.

Only a restricted list of functions can be assigned to a given EIC code, based on its code type. This list of functions is maintained by the ENTSO-E WG EDI and can be found in the EIC website.

4.2 EIC code types

- EIC object type X (Party)

The EIC code of type X is used to identify a Party[5].

The allocation of an EIC code does not permit a Party to participate in any energy market. The Party has necessarily to be registered in accordance with local market rules of the area where the Party wants to operate.

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4 *In case they were issued before the version 5.0 of the EIC reference manual and are referred to in the local market rules and national laws, more than one EIC code of type X per party shall remain valid until phased out.*

5 *With the introduction of the EIC coding system, balance groups in the electricity market were assigned EIC code type X in some European countries. In Germany, this usage of local EIC codes remains valid due to local market rules and national laws.*

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- EIC object type Y (Area)

The EIC code of type Y is used to identify a domain which can be considered as a delimited area that is uniquely identified for a specific purpose and where energy consumption, production or trade may be determined. It can be a geographical or market area, such as control areas, balance groups, bidding zones, balancing areas, etc.

Only system operators, grid operators (distribution operators), market operators, imbalance settlement responsible parties, balance responsible parties, and regulators are allowed to request new EIC area identification codes.

- EIC object type Z (Measurement point)

The EIC code of type Z is used to identify a physical or logical point that is used to identify an object where the measurement of energy is measured or calculated.

- EIC object type W (Resource object)

The EIC code of type W is used to identify objects to be used for production, consumption or storage of energy. Examples are: generation unit, production unit, LNG terminals, gas storages etc. Excluded are the passive elements in the grid, e.g. lines or transformers.

- EIC object type T (Tie-line)

The EIC code of type T is used to identify connecting objects such as interconnection lines, lines, busbar-couples, transformers, etc.

- EIC object type V (Location)

The EIC code of type V is used to identify a physical or logical place where a Party or an IT system of a Party is or could be located (endpoints, nodes etc.). A location has necessarily an EIC responsible party associated with it.

- EIC object Type A (Substations)

The EIC code of type A is used to identify substations.

4.3 EIC attributes

The information of an EIC code which are stored in the central or local registry are described in the ENTSO-E EIC implementation guide.

5 Structure of the EIC code

5.1 General

The Energy Identification Coding scheme (EIC) is based on fixed length alphanumeric codes. The EIC codes will contain information about the LIO in addition to information on the object identified. It is strongly recommended that EIC codes should be non-significant alphanumeric codes. This maintains the uniqueness of the code and stability of the coding system. Examples:

- of a random non-significant code: 10X1680A248;
- of a non-random significant code: 10X---ENTSOE--3.

5.2 Permitted characters

Permitted characters are numbers (0 to 9), capital letters (A to Z, English alphabet) and the sign minus (-). To avoid confusion, the check character shall use numbers (0 to 9) or the capital letters (A to Z).

5.3 Overall structure

The structure of the EIC may be broken down as follows (see Figure 1):

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- The 2-characters identifying the LIO, as assigned by the CIO.
- One character identifying the object type that the EIC code represents.
- 12 digits, uppercase characters or minus signs allocated by the LIO in compliance with general and local rules to identify the object in question (party, measurement point, area, etc.). This implies that the significance of these 12 characters shall always remain constant.
- 1 check character based on the 15 previous characters used to ensure the validity of the EIC code. The check digit algorithm is described in the EIC implementation guide document, which is available in the EIC website.

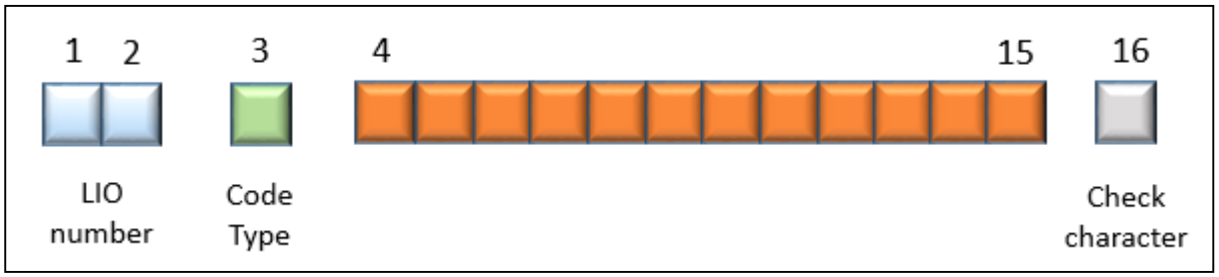

Figure 1 –Structure of an EIC code

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